

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 5, 8, 9, and 12-15, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A ribozyme comprising a nucleotide sequence having the following base sequence (I) or (II):
base sequence (I)(SEQ ID No. 1): 5'-ACCGUUGGUUCCGUAGUGUAGUGGUUA
UCACGUUCGCCUAACACGCGAAAGGUCCCCGGUUCGAAACCGGGCACUACAAAC
ACAACACUGAUGAGGACCGAAAGGUCCGAAACCGGGCACGUCGGAACGGUUUU
[[U]]-3'

base sequence (II)(SEQ ID No. 2): 5'-ACCGUUGGUUCCGUAGUGUAGUGGUU
AUCACGUUCGCCUAACACGCGAAAGGUCCCCGGUUCGAAACCGGGCACUACAAA
CCAACACACAACACUGAUGAGGACCGAAAGGUCCGAAACCGGGCACGUCGGAAC
GGUUUU[[U]]-3'.

2. (Original) An expression vector comprising DNA encoding the ribozyme according to claim 1.

3. (Original) A method of producing the ribozyme according to claim 1 comprising transcribing to RNA with expression vector DNA as a template, wherein said expression vector DNA comprises DNA encoding the ribozyme according to claim 1.

4. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the ribozyme according to claim 1 or the expression vector according to claim 2, ~~as an effective ingredient.~~

5. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4 for the prevention and/or treatment of acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

6. (Original) A method of specifically cleaving a target RNA using the ribozyme according to claim 1.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the target RNA is HIV-1 RNA.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently Amended). A The RNA variant ~~according to claim 8~~ consisting of the sequence of a region corresponding to nucleotides 1-80 within the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1.
11. (Currently Amended) A The RNA variant ~~according to claim 8~~ consisting of the sequence of a region corresponding to nucleotides 1-86 within the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2.
- 12-15. (Canceled)

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